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**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Maertens

Atty. Ref.: 2551-102; Confirmation No. 3516

Appl. No. 09/899,302

Group: 1634

Filed: July 6, 2001

Examiner: Whisenant

For: PROCESS FOR TYPING OF HCV ISOLATES

\* \* \* \* \*

February 23, 2004

Mail Stop AF  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

VIA FACSIMILE TO: 7038729306

Sir:

**AMENDMENT AFTER FINAL REJECTION**

Responsive to the Official Action dated January 5, 2004, entry and consideration of the following amendments and remarks, as well as the attached and the Information Disclosure Statement filed February 5, 2004, are requested.